PART FIVE  
“The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho  
1/2/12

The last part of the book was the shortest of all the sections. It describes the very last events leading to the end of the boy’s journey. Part five picks up from when the boy and the Alchemist are let go. They continue to travel together until they reach a Coptic monastery. The Alchemist tells the boy that they are only three hours from the pyramids and that he can no longer travel with him because he must find his treasure on his own. He then gives the monk they are traveling with gold and the boy gold and then leaves the boy to finish his journey alone. The boy then travels into the dessert, alone, to finally complete his personal legend and find his treasure. After traveling for the three hours he spots the pyramids from the top of a sand dune. Falling to his knees in the sand he sees a scarab and he immediately begins digging but finds nothing. Eventually two refugees come up to the boy and see what he is doing; they make him continue digging until the next morning. When he again finds nothing the men begin beating him, making the boy think he is going to die right there and then. However, the men just leave him badly beaten and bloody, but before they leave the one refugee tells the boy about a dream he had about he himself finding a treasure at the roots of a sycamore tree near a ruined church. He lastly says “but I’m not so stupid to cross an entire dessert just because of a recurrent dream,” and at that moment the boy knew where his treasure was.

The last part of the book was enjoyable but not as good as I expected to be. It had some suspense and action, but the ending was confusing and left me not understanding what had just happened. However, after reading it over again and reading the Epilogue everything was clear to me. The boy was brought to the pyramid not to find his treasure, he was brought there to enjoy the beauty of the pyramids. When he did finally find the treasure it made the ending so much happier and likeable. After all the boy went through; from being robbed, beaten, and held hostage, I was really happy to see the boy getting what he set out to do. The one thing that I would have liked to see was if he actually found Fatima when he returned to the Oasis. It would have been a better ending if the author would have made the Epilogue the ending of the book. All in all it was a really good book and I myself learned a lot of life lessons from reading it.

In this section of the book the question “why does man look to his past to shape his future” was answered. In the boys case he looked to his past of his recurring dreams to help him reach a successful future of finding his treasure. In the beginning of the book the boy had dreams of finding a treasure and traveling to the pyramid’s but never thought anything of the dream until he went to the gypse. At the end of the book when the refugee told the boy the story of his recurring dream it triggered the boys past memory of how his dream was right, so he used the man’s dream to his advantage and found his treasure. In other words, he used his past successes to reach his ultimate goal in his future.